

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 TAR-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01 /135 W
----- 040307

R 190705Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1657

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD KS TW

SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

REF: SEOUL 8105

1. MOFA OFFICIAL CALLED IN EMBOFF DECEMBER 19 TO DELIVER "POSITION PAPER" ON MUSHROOMS PROMISED EARLIER, PER REFTEL. PAPER MADE THREE POINTS: A) ROKG HAS NO OBJECTION TO MUSHROOM CONSULTATIONS AT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PLACE AND TIME. B) ROKG REQUESTS THAT USG GIVE FULL AND EMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO SPECIAL KOREAN SITUATION RE MUSHROOMS AS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS. C) ROKT WISHES REMIND USG THAT EXISTING EXPORT CONTROLS ON FOOTWEAR APPLY ONLY TO KOREA, LEAVING OTHER COUNTRIES UNAFFECTED.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT CONTENT OF ROKG PAPER IN THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD ON DECEMBER 3, AND HAD SO REPORTED TO WASHINGTON, THAT ROKG AGREED TO CONSULT AND THAT NEXT STEP WAS FOR ROKG TO PRESENT DETAILED REACTION TO US SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. HE

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THEN ASKED WHEN BBSTANTIATIVE DISCUSSIONS CTGLD

BEGIN AND SUGGESTED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH AS START-
ING DATE.

3. MOFA OFFICIAL INDICATED HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO
ACCEPT PROPOSED STARTING DATE FOR DISCUSSIONS BUT
WOULD REFER EMBOFF SUGGESTION TO HIS SUPERIORS. IN
FACT, ROKG HAD ANTICIPATED THAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR
USG TO COMMUNICATE ITS PREFERENCES FOR STARTING
DATE AND VENUE OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. WHEN
EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN SAYING SINCE
SEPTEMBER 7 THAT USG PREFERS THAT DISCUSSIONS TAKE
QNACE IN SEOUL AND THAT THEY BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
MOFA OFFICIAL DECIDED TO CHANGE TAXTICS AND DISCUSS
SOME OF SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS ROKG HAS WITH MUSHROOM
CONSULTATIONS.

4. THE POINTS HE RAISED WERE AS FOLLOWS: A) ROKG
BELIEVES MUSHROOM ISSUE IS "BURIED" EY THIS TIME OF
PETROLEUM CRISIS WHICH THREATENS VERY FOUNDATION OF
KOREAN ECONOMY, AND HAS BYFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING WHY
USG INSISTS ON PURSUING MATTER. B) ROK EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON HAS CONVEYED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT MAIN
TARGET OF USG EFFORT ON MUSHRHZMS IS ROC ANJUT THAT WE
ARE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT CONTROLLING KOREAN SHIPMENTS AS
WELL. KC) ROKG CANNOT BEGIN CONSULTATIONS UNTIL US-ROC
DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEGUN, AND ROKG'S LATEST
INFORMATION IS THAT TAIPEI DISCUSSIONS WILL NOT BEGIN
UNTIL DECEMBER 22.

5. EMBOFF MADE OBVIOUS RESPONSES TO EACH OF FOREGOING,
I. 3. A) PETROLEUM CRISIS DOES NOT MEAN ALL OTHER
MATTERS MUST BE SWEEP ASIDE. B) USG IS INDEED SERIOUS
ABOUT LIMITING KOREAN MUSHROOM SHIPMENTS, AND C) AS
REPORTED TO KOREANS EARLIER, US AND ROC HAD INITIAL
CONSULTATION SESSION NOVEMBER 29 AS REPORTED TAIPEI
7185. EMBOFF THEN PQNTED OUT ONCE AGAIN THAT WE
CAN UNDERSTAND WHY NEITHER ROC NOR ROK WISHES TO
ENTER INTO MUSHROOM AGREEMENT UNTIL ASSURED THAT
THE OTHER WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE. THEREFORE, PERHAPS
ROKG SHOULD CONSULT WITH ROC, AT LEAST AS TO STARTING
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DATE FOR DISCUSSIONS. MOFA OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ROKG TO COORDINATE WITH ROC ON THIS
ISSUE SINCE THEIR INTERESTS ARE VERY DIFFERENT: ROC
WISHES TO PRESERVE ITS CURRENT MARKET SHARE WHILE
ROKG SEEKS TO EXPAND ITS SHARE.

6. COMMENT: TO DATE WE HAVE BEEN PATIENT WITH ROKG ON
THIS MATTER, BUT IT IS NOW CLEARLY TIME TO TAKE IT TO

HIGHER LEVEL. IN MEANTIME, RE PARA 4 (B) ABOVE,
DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT KOREAN EMBASSY
OFFICIALS AND ASSURE THEM WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT KOREAN
MUSHROOMS. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT OF ZWIS CONTACT.
DECONTROL FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 1974.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, MUSHROOMS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL08520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731215/aaaaalcx.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 8105
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUSHROOMS
TAGS: ETRD, KS, TW, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005